

circulating the laser gas by use of a blower, wherein the laser gas passes an exciting region in the chamber; and

operating rotation of the blower in accordance with a state of the exciting region, said operating step including (i) operating the blower rotation in a stand-by state in which no laser gas is excited and no laser light is outputted, and (ii) operating the blower rotation in an in-operation state in which the laser gas is excited and laser light is outputted. --

#### REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1,2, 4-8, 10-15, and 17-59 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 13, 20, 30, 46, 55, 56, 58, and 59 are independent.

Claims 56-59 have been added to recite additional features of the invention. Support for these claims can be found in the application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15 and 17-29 were previously allowed in this application. Claims 21-46 (properly renumbered as claims 30-55 herein) were added in the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 3, 2001, and claims 56-59 are now being added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Applicants submit that these claims patentably define features of the invention and likewise should be deemed allowable. Therefore, Applicants further submit that the instant application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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